# The bee fauna (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) of southeastern Washington

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#### ABSTRACT

A survey of the species composition, distribution, and host plants of bees (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) was conducted in the Snake River area, the Colton area, and the Moscow Mountain area of southeastern Washington. Nineteen genera and 100 species occurred in the three areas. The number of species found in each family were: 1 Colletidae; 11 Halictidae; 31 Megachilidae; 27 Adrenidae; 15 Anthophoridae and 15 Apidae. Location and flowers visited are listed for each species.

Key words: bees, Hymenoptera, Apoidea, bee fauna, Washington State

#### INTRODUCTION

There are no published faunal studies of bees in Washington despite their importance in pollination and their high priority with respect to conservation of biodiversity (Williams *et al.* 1993). Most information on the native bee species occurring in Washington is difficult to access because it is in various systematic works dealing with particular taxa (families, genera).

Bee studies in Washington have, in many cases, been concerned with the role of bees as pollinators of commercial crops. Menke (1952) listed a number of genera of Apoidea associated with apple (Malus × domestica Borkh). The alkali bee (Nomia melanderi Cockerell) and the alfalfa leafcutter bee (Megachile rotundata (Fabricius)) are important pollinators managed by alfalfa growers and have been studied extensively in Washington (Menke 1954; Johansen et al. 1978; Eves et al. 1980). Bumblebees have been studied for pollination of red clover seed (Johansen 1960; Dade and Johansen 1962) and cranberries (Johansen 1967; Macfarlane et al. 1994). Other studies of native bees in Washington examined and related behaviors of Anthophora urbana urbana Cresson (Mayer and Johansen 1976), Andrena vicina Smith (Miliczky and Osgood 1995), and Melissodes microsticta Cockerell (Miliczky 2000).

Bee diversity on the Columbia Plateau is expected to be high. Stephen *et al.* (1969) estimated that 879 species occurred in northwestern North America, and Washington, Oregon, and Idaho formed the core of this region. Bees are thought to reach their greatest diversity in number of species in warm temperate, xeric regions (Linsley 1958; Michener 1979). Mountainous areas of moderate rainfall, varied floras, and soils suitable for ground nesting forms also support rich bee faunas (Linsley 1958). Washington offers large expanses of both types of habitat, especially the part of the state east of the Cascade Mountains. Here we document the species composition, distribution, and host plants of the native bees of southeastern Washington in the first comprehensive study of Washington's bee fauna.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

We sampled pollinator communities in three ecological regions of southeastern Washington: 1) The Snake River area is 15.3 ha located 21-26 km southwest of Pullman, WA

along the Snake River Road 5-8 km below the Wawawai railroad siding (T.36N-R.43E of quadrangle 57). The elevation ranged from 183-207 m and the area is Upper Sonoran Life Zone (St. John 1937). 2) The Colton area is a 11.3 ha original Palouse prairie vegetation area 21 km south of Pullman, WA (T.37N-R45E of quadrangle 57). The elevation ranged from 808-853 m and the area is Arid Transition Life Zone (St. John 1937). 3) Moscow Mountain is about 24 km northeast of Pullman, WA (T.39N-R5W of quadrangle 58) The sample area was on a 22.6 ha slope at the 1450 m level in the Canadian Zone (St. John 1937).

In each area we observed and collected bees from 15 June 1962 to 22 October 1962 and from 30 March 1963 to 20 June 1963. One collector made weekly trips to each site for a minimum of 8 h per day during the spring, summer and fall; a total of 34 collecting trips. The majority of collecting and observations were from 0730 h to 1730 h though we did occasionally collect and observe from dawn to dusk. Whenever possible, bee species identifiable in the field (*Bombus*, and some *Andrea* and *Anthophora*) were released to maintain the populations. Unidentified flowers were first given a site number. The bees and time of visitation were recorded in reference to this number and then plant specimens were collected for identification.

We used the direct searching method and insect nets to capture bees on flowers or in flight. We used the taxonomic system of Michener *et.al.* (1994) and used LaBerge (1956a, 1956b, 1961), Stephen (1954), Stephen (1957), Stephen *et al.* (1969) and Thorp *et al.* (1983) to identify collected specimens. Most of the *Andrena*, *Mellissodes*, *Diadasia* and *Colletes* were determined by Wallace E. LaBerge. Voucher specimens for 89 species were deposited at the Insect Museum at Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

Plant names are those used by Hitchcock (1955), except for the majority of Compositae which are from St. John (1937). Flower specimens were compared with determined material in the Herbarium at Washington State University.

### RESULTS

Six-hundred-and-seven bees were collected. The diversity of bee species was greatest at the Snake River site (18 genera, 64 species) followed by Moscow Mountain (14 genera, 54 species) and the Colton site (14 genera, 37 species) (Table 1). Six families of bees were found (Colletidae, Halictidae, Megachilidae, Andrenidae, Anthophoride and Apidae). Nineteen genera and 100 species occurred in the three areas. One genus of Colletidae, 4 genera of Halictidae, 5 genera of Megachilidae, 2 genera of Andrenidae, 6 genera of Anthophoride and 2 genera of Apidae (the honey bee (*Apis melifera* L.) was not included) occurred in the study areas. One species of Colletidae, 11 species of Halictidae, 31 species of Megachilidae, 27 species of Andrenidae, 15 species of Anthophoridae and 15 species of Apidae occurred in the study areas.

Twenty-one families of plants (80 species) were identified as sources of nectar or pollen (usually both) for the visiting Apoidea (Table 1). The effect of elevation on host plant distrubtion and phenology was reflected in the distrubtion and capture dates of bee species at all three locations. Osmia nanula Cockerell was found in the middle of May at the lowest elevation but one month later at the mountain area. Halictus ligatus Say, H. tripartitus Cockerell, Andrena prunorum Cockerell and A. opaciventris Cockerell were also captured later in the season at higher elevations. This same phenomenon was also shown by the six most common Bombus species. Queens of all six species were observed by mid-April at the Snake River area, about 2 weeks later at the Colton area, except for B. occidentalis Greene, and at the Moscow mountain area about 4 weeks later.

Table 1
List of bee species collected from three specific areas in southeastern Washington.
S = Snake River area, C = Colton area, M = Moscow Mtn. area.

Family and Species Area Flowers visited

Family and Species	Area	Flowers visited
COLLETIDAE (1 sp.)		
Colletinae		
Colletes californicus Provancher HALICTIDAE (11 spp.)	M	Mertensia paniculata
Halictinae		
Agapostemon cockerelli Crawford	M	Rudbeckia occidentalis, Cirsium arvense,
		Cirsium vulgare
Agapostemon texanus Cresson	S, C	Convolvulus sp., Medicago sativa,
8 1		Helianthus annus, Haplopappus sp.
Agapostemon virescens (Fabricius)	S,M,C	C. vulgare, Vicia sp., Helianthus annus,
		Rosa sp., Gaillardia aristata, Epilobium
		angustifolium, Gentiana calycosa,
		Compositae
Halictus farinosus Smith	S	Lomatium spp., Malus × domestica,
,		Brassica campestris, Sisymbrium
		attissimum, Helianthus annus, Solidago sp.
Halictus ligatus Say	S, M, C	Helianthus annus, Cirsium arvense,
		Solidago sp., Hapiopappus sp.
Halictus rubicundus (Christ)	S, M	Lomatium spp., Trifolium repens,
		Taraxacum officinate, Ranunculus sp.,
		Cirsium arvense
Halictus tripartitus Cockerell	S, M, C	Lomatium spp., Rosa sp., Compositae,
		Solidago sp., Trifolium repens, Ranunculus
		sp., Taraxacum officinale, Collinsia
		parviflora, Cirsium arvense
Lasioglossum spp. sen. s.	S, M, C	Lomatium spp., Malus $\times$ domestica,
		Balsamorhiza sagittata, Potentilla
		gracilis, Helianthella uniflora,
		Trifolium repens
Lasioglossum spp. (Dialictus)	S	Lomatium spp., Malus × domestica,
	_	Gaillardia aristata
Lasioglossum spp. (Evylaeus)	S	Lomatium spp., Prunus avium, Malus ×
		domestica, Prunus virginiana, Taraxacum
B 1111		officinale
Rophitinae		D1 1: 1
Dufourea sp.	M	Phacelia heterophylla
MEGACHILIDAE (31 spp.)		
Megachilinae Anthidium emarginatum (Say)	C	Phacelia heterophylla
Anthidium utahense Swenk	S S	Vicia villosa
	M	Lupinus polyphyllus, Phacelia heterophylla
Hoplitis albifrons argentifrons (Cresson)	IVI	Lupinus polypnyllus, I nacella neterophylla
Hoplitis fulgida fulgida (Cresson)	M	Ranunculus sp., Delphinium nuttalliana,
Tropinis juigida juigida (Cicsson)	171	Physocarpus malvaceus, Phacelia
		heterophylla
Hoplitis hypocrita (Cockerell)	S, M	Balsamorhiza sagitatta, Lomatium spp.,
Topinis hypocrita (Cocketen)	O, 171	Penstemon attenuatus
Megachile brevis Say	S	Solidago sp.
Megachile gemula Cresson	M	Physocarpus malvaceus
Megachile melanophaea calogaster	M	none
Cockerell		

Megachile parallela Smith	S	Helianthus annus
Megachile perihirta Cockerell	S, C	Vicia villosa, Xanthium sp., Compositae,
		Solidago sp., Gaillardia aristata, Senecio
		serra, Cirsium vulgare, Cirsium arvense
Megachile pugnata Say	S	Erigeron speciosus
Osmia atrocyanea atrocyanea	S, M	Malus × domestica, Balsamorhiza
Cockerell		sagittata, Lupinus polyphyllus, Vicia
Osmia brevis Cresson	S, M	villosa Vicia villosa, Trifolium repens, Phacelia
Osmia brevis Cicsson	5, IVI	heterophylla
Osmia bruneri Cockerell or cobaltina	S	Penstemon lanatum
Cresson	5	Tensiemon tanatum
Osmia californica Cresson	S	Lomatium spp., Ribes aureum,
o simu cany o i mear e ressen		Balsamorhiza sagittata, Gaillardia aristata
Osmia calla Cockerell	S	Vicia villosa
Osmia calia Cockeren Osmia coloradensis Cresson	M	Trifolium repens, Arnica cordifolia
Osmia juxta juxta Cresson	M	Epilobium angustifolium
Osmia kincaidii Cockerell	M	Phacelia heterophylla, Collinsia parvifloro
Osmia lignaria Say	M	Pyrus scopulina, Arnica cordifolia,
Osmia lignaria Say	IVI	Phacelia heterophylla
Osmia montana Cresson	S	Rosa sp., Gaillardia aristata
Osmia montana Cicsson Osmia nanula Cockerell	M, C	Geranium viscosissimum, Ranunculus sp.
Osmia nanula Cockerell Osmia nr. nanula Cockerell	S, M	Vicia villosa, Trifolium repens
Osmia nemoris Sandhouse		Balsamorhiza sagittata, Arnica cordifolia
	S, M	
Osmia nifoata Cockerell	M S	Pyrus scopulina
Osmia nigrifrons Cresson		Balsamorhiza sagittata, Vicia villosa
Osmia pentstemonis Cockerell	S, M	Penstemon albertinus
Osmia pikei Cockerell	S	Balsamorhiza sagittata
Osmia subaustralis Cockerell	S	Gaillardia aristata
Stelis nr. foederalis Smith	M	none
Stelis subcaerulea Cresson	S, C	Eriophyllum lanatum, Achillea millefolium
ANDRENIDAE (27 spp.)		
Andrenina		4
Andrena amphibola (Viereck)	C	Agastache urticifolia
Andrena angustitarsata Viereck	S, M, C	Lomatium spp., Malus × domestica, Prunus
		virginina, Pyrus scopulina, Rosa sp.,
		Ranunculus sp., Physocarpus malvaceus,
(0.11)		Rubus parviflorus
Andrena auricoma (Smith)	M	Potentilla sp., Achillea millefolium,
		Physocarpus malvaceus
Andrena caerulea Smith	S, M	Ranunculus sp., Prunus virginiana
Andrena candida Smith	S	Lomatium spp., Prunus avium,
		Balsamorhiza sagittata
Andrena chlorogaster Viereck	M	Physcarpus malvaceus, Potentilla sp.
Andrena crataegi Robertson	M	Physcarpus malvaceus
Andrena cressonii Robertson	S, C	Lomatium spp., Balsamorhiza sagitata,
		Rosa sp., Prunus virginiana, Geranium
		viscosissimum
Andrena helianthi Robertson	S	Helianthus annus, Solidago canadensis
Andrena hemileuca Viereck	M	Pyrus scopulina
Andrena merriami Cockerell	S, C	Lomatium spp., Prunus avium
Andrena microchlora Cockerell	S	Lomatium spp., Malus × domestica, Ribes
		aureum
		D
Andrena miserabilis Cresson	M	Physcarpus malvaceus
Andrena miserabilis Cresson Andrena nigrocaerulea Cockerell	M C	Physcarpus malvaceus Geranium viscosissimum Physcarpus malvaceus

Andrena pallidifovea (Viereck)	S	Eriophyllum lanatum
Andrena perarmata Cockerell	S	Lomatium spp.
Andrena pertristis carliniformis	С	Lomatium spp.
Viereck & Cockerell		
Andrena prunorum Cockerell	S, M, C	Lomatium spp., Sisymbrium attissimum,
		Philadelphus lewisii, Holodiscus discolor,
		Geranium. viscosissimum, Physcarpus
		malvaceus
Andrena subsaustralis Cockerell	M	Balsamorhiza sagittata
Andrena subtilis Smith	S, C	Rosa sp.
Andrena topozana Cockerell	M	Cirsium arvense
Andrena trizonata Ashmead	M	Phycarpus malvaceus
Andrena vicina Smith	S, M, C	Phycarpus malvaceus, Rosa sp., Geranium viscosissimum, Holodiscus discolor, Rubus parviflorus
<sup>1</sup> Andrena sp. E new sp.	S, C	Balsamorhiza sagittata, Lomatium spp.
Panurginae .		
Perdita lingualis Cockerell	S, C	Rosa sp., Geranium viscosissimum, Helianthus annus
Perdita wyomingensis sculleni	S	Holodiscus discolor, Achillea millefolium
Timberlake	-	
ANTHOPHORIDAE (15 spp.)		
Anthophorinae		
Anthophora bomboides Kirby	S	none
Anthophora pacifica Cresson	S, C	Lomatium spp., Prunus armeniaca, Malus
		× domestica, Syringa sp., Balsamorhiza
		sagitatta, Ribes aureum
Anthophora ursina Cresson	S	Vicia villosa
Diadasia enavata Cresson	S	Helianthus annus
Diadasia nigrifrons (Cresson)	C	Sidalcea oregana
Habropoda cineraria (Smith)	S	Physcarpus armeniaca, Malus × domestica,
		Rosa sp., Ribes aureum
Melissodes agilis Cresson	S	Helianthus annus, Gaillardia aristata
Mellisodes lupina Cresson	S	Helianthus annus
Melissodes metenua Cockerell	С	Haplopappus liatriformis
Mellisodes rivalis Cresson	C	. Cirsium vulgare
Mellisodes robustior Cockerell	S	Helianthus annus
Synhalonia actuosa (Cresson)	S, C	Balsamorhiza sagitatta, Malus ×
		domestica, Prunus virginiana, Lupinus sp.,
South alouis a durantail (Cassasa)	C	Vicia villosa
Synhalonia edwardsii (Cresson)	S	Vicia villosa, Lupinus polyphyllus,
Sambalania fratar (Crassan)	c M.C	Dipsacus sylvestris
Synhalonia frater (Cresson)	S, M,C	Balsamorhiza sagitatta, Malus ×
		domestica, Syringa sp., Trifolium repens, Penstemon attenuatus, Brodiaea douglasii
Xylocopinae		Tensiemon attenuatus, Droataea aougiasti
Ceratina acantha Provancher	S, M, C	Lomatium spp., Rosa sp., Penstemon
Ceraina acanna i Tovanenci	5, WI, C	triphyllus, Eriophyllum lanatum, Helianthus annus, Geranium viscosissimum, Cirsium lanceolatum
APIDAE (15 spp.)		
Bombinae	0.14.0	DI II DI II I
Bombus appositus Cresson	S, M, C	Phacelia sp., Balsamorhiza sagittata, Vicia
		villosa, Agastache urticifolia,
Rombus hifavires Conses	MC	Brodiaea douglasii
Bombus bifarius Cresson	M, C	Anaphalis margaritacea, Epilobium

		angustifolium, Rudbeckia occidentalis, Collinsia parviflora, Cirsium arvense, Phacelia spp., Sisyrinchium albus, Lupinus
Bombus californicus F. Smith Bombus centralis Cresson	S, C S, M, C	polyphyllus, Vicia villosa, Penstemon spp. Vicia villosa, Sisyrincyhium albus Epilobium angustifolium, Rosa sp., Rubus parviflorus, Malus × domestica, Geranium viscosissimum, Anaphalis margaritacea, Rudbeckia occidentalis, Collinsia parviflora, Sisyrinchium albus, Balsamorhiza sagittata, Lupinus polyphyllus, Trifolium repens, Mertensia
Bombus fervidus (Fabricius)	S, M, C	paniculata, Dipsacus sylvestris, Vicia villosa, Agastache urticifolia, Penstemon spp., Brodiaea douglasii Epilobium angustifolium, Rosa sp., Malus
Bomous yerviaus (1 auricius)	5, M, C	× domestica, Geranium viscosissimum, Anaphalis margaritacea, Rudbeckia occidentalis, Sisyrinchium albus, Medicgo sativa, Balsamorhiza sagittata, Cirsium lanceolatum, Lupinus polyphyllus,
Bombus flavirons Cresson	M, C	Dipsacus sylvestris, Vicia villosa, Agastache urticifolia, Brodiaea douglasii Epilobium angustifolium, Cirsium arvense, Sisyrinchium albus, Helianthus annus, Dipsacus sylvestris, Vicia villosa, Agastache urticifolia, Penstemon spp.,
Bombus griseocollis (Degeer)	S, M, C	Castilleja sp. Epilobium angustifolium, Rosa sp., Solidago sp., Phacelia sp., Sisyrinchium albus, Medicgo sativa, Balsamorhiza sagittata, Helianthus annus, Lupinus
Bombus mixtus Cresson	M, C	polyphyllus, Vicia villosa, Penstemon spp. Epilobium angustifolium, Rudbeckia occidentalis, Collinsia parviflora, Phacelia sp., Sisyrinchium albus, Lupinus polyphyllus, Arnica cordifolia, Mertensia
Bombus nevadensis Cresson	S, M, C	paniculata Malus × domestica, Solidago sp., Phacelia sp., Medicgo sativa, Balsamorhiza sagittata, Cirsium lanceolatum, Trifoluim. repens, Dipsacus sylvestris, Vicia villosa, Agastache urticifolia, Astragulus sp.,
Bombus occidentalis Greene	S, M, C	Penstemon spp., Brodiaea douglasii Epilobium angustifolium, Rosa sp., Rubus parviflorus, Malus × domestica, Phacelia sp., Sisyrinchium albus, Medicgo sativa, Balsqamorhiza sagittata, Cirsium lanceolatum, Lupinus polyphyllus, Trifoluim repens, Aconitium columbianum, Vicia
Bombus rufocinctus Cresson	S. M	villosa, Penstemon sp., Brodiaea douglasii Epilobium angustifolium, Geranium viscosissimum, Phacelia sp., Sisyrinchium albus, Brodiaea douglasii
Bombus vagans Smith	M	Sisyrinchium albus
Psithyrus insularis (F. Smith)	С	Epilobium angustifolium, Dipsacus

Psithyrus suckleyi (Greene)	S, M	sylvestris, Agastache urticifolia Epilobium angustifolium, Sisyrinchium albus, Agastache urticifolia, Brodiaea douglasii, Senecio viscosissimum
Psithyrus variabilis (Cresson)	M	Epilobium angustifolium

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Species E in the collection of Dan Mayer; yet to be described.

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